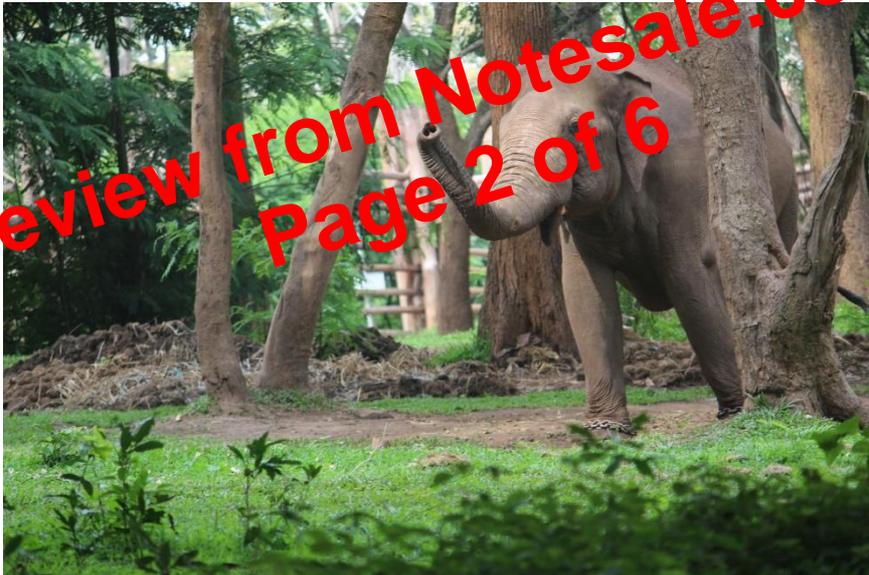




Killing the elephant turns out not to be easy at all. It takes multiple bullets to bring the giant animal down, and when it does finally collapse, it stays alive, bleeding, yet breathing. Orwell describes the scene in clear, unaffected prose, and he ultimately reveals his inability to do the decent thing and put elephant out of its misery. The crowd is thoroughly pleased by the entire scene. They're also happy to come get the meat from the dying animal. In this way Orwell wins them over. But he walks away from the suffering elephant, leaving it to bleed to death and feeling shame.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
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The essay is at once an allegory (As a literary device, an allegory is a narrative, whether in prose or verse, in which a character, place or event is used to deliver a broader message about real-world issues and occurrences) and a personal memoir. It symbolizes the brutal attempt of the British colonizers to control a people; it also tells the story of a personal dilemma manifesting and playing out in a dramatic, violent scene.